



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
Telephone: (626) 458-5100  
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

**GAIL FARBER, Director**

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

August 02, 2011

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

28 August 2, 2011

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE  
RESTRICT COMMERCIAL VEHICLE USE OF  
ANGELES FOREST HIGHWAY AND BIG TUJUNGA CANYON ROAD  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5)  
(3 VOTES)**

### **SUBJECT**

This action is to establish an ordinance to restrict commercial vehicles with three or more axles or a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination vehicle weight rating of 9,000 pounds or more from operating on Angeles Forest Highway and Big Tujunga Canyon Road.

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Find that the proposed ordinance is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.
2. Introduce, waive reading, and place the ordinance on a subsequent agenda for adoption.
3. Approve the ordinance adding section 15.48.015 to Title 15: Vehicles and Traffic of the Los Angeles County Code to restrict commercial vehicles with three or more axles or a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination vehicle weight rating of 9,000 pounds or more from operating on Angeles Forest Highway and Big Tujunga Canyon Road.
4. Rescind a traffic regulation order prohibiting commercial vehicles over 6,000 pounds from traveling on Angeles Forest Highway between Angeles Crest Highway and Sierra Highway, Angeles National Forest, (Supervisorial District 5), as established on February 8, 1994.

5. Rescind a traffic regulation order prohibiting commercial vehicles over 6,000 pounds from traveling on Big Tujunga Canyon Road between Mount Gleason Avenue and Angeles Forest Highway, Angeles National Forest, (Supervisory District 5), as established on February 8, 1994.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On April 7, 2009, the Board directed the Chief Executive Officer to send a five-signature letter to Governor Schwarzenegger, the State Legislature, and various other state departments and agencies, as well as directed the Director of Public Works to prepare a comprehensive review of truck bans implemented on County roads with recommendations on ensuring that signage requirements are met. In August 2009, the State enacted Assembly Bill No. 1361 which ban certain commercial vehicles from using Angeles Crest Highway. This action by the State prompted us to review the existing commercial vehicle restriction that has been in place on Angeles Forest Highway and Big Tujunga Canyon Road since February 1994.

The most apparent difference between the State-enacted and County-enacted restrictions is the weight limit. Assembly Bill No. 1361 applies to commercial vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 9,000 pounds or more while the restriction adopted by the County in February 1994 applies to commercial vehicles over 6,000 pounds. An additional difference is the Assembly Bill No. 1361 notes a restriction of vehicles with three or more axles while the current restriction on Angeles Forest Highway and Big Tujunga Canyon Road does not indicate a maximum number of axles. In conclusion, Assembly Bill No. 1361 lists several exemptions, which are different from the exemptions that apply to Angeles Forest Highway and Big Tujunga Canyon Road.

Therefore, in consultation with the California Highway Patrol, Sheriff's Departments, and the State of California Department of Transportation and in the interest of creating consistency between commercial vehicle operations on the forest highways (Angeles Crest Highway and Angeles Forest Highway) and a forest road (Big Tujunga Canyon Road) that becomes an alternate route in the event of a closure of Angeles Crest Highway, we recommend the following restriction for Angeles Forest Highway and Big Tujunga Canyon Road:

A person shall not drive a commercial vehicle with three (3) or more axles or a gross vehicle weight or a combined gross weight of 9,000 pounds or more on (a) Angeles Forest Highway from Sierra Highway to Angeles Crest Highway and (b) Big Tujunga Canyon Road from the City of Los Angeles/County of Los Angeles boundary which is north of Mount Gleason Avenue to Angeles Forest Highway. These axle and weight restrictions shall not apply to the following:

- Those vehicles described in section 15.48.030, Exceptions to Restrictions.
- A vehicle operated by a government agency.
- A commercial vehicle involved in a motion picture, commercial, or television production conducting motion picture, commercial, or television production activities in areas that are accessible only from that portion of Angeles Forest Highway or Big Tujunga Canyon Road specified above.

We consulted with the United States Forest Service since these routes are owned by the Federal Government and we have received their support (copy enclosed) for the restriction.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Public Safety (Goal 5) as it will improve traffic safety along the affected routes.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

Sufficient funds are included in the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Road Fund Budget to cover the cost of removing and installing the necessary signs.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

A commercial vehicle refers to any vehicle as defined in section 260 of the California Vehicle Code. The manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating is defined in section 350 of the California Vehicle Code. A local authority can restrict the use of a highway by certain vehicles per section 21101(c) of the California Vehicle Code.

The enclosed ordinance adds section 15.48.015 to Title 15: Vehicles and Traffic of the Los Angeles County Code and provides a restriction of commercial vehicles with three or more axles or a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination vehicle weight rating of 9,000 pounds or more from operating on Angeles Forest Highway and Big Tujunga Canyon Road.

The analysis of this ordinance has been approved by County Counsel.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The establishment of this ordinance, including the installation of related traffic control devices required to notify the motoring public, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301(c) of the CEQA guidelines and Class I (x)7 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines approved by your Board on November 17, 1987.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

No impact on current services or projects is expected.

**CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this letter and enclosures to the Department of Public Works, Traffic and Lighting Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Farber".

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:DL:kw

Enclosures

c: California Highway Patrol (Southern Division)  
Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)  
County Counsel (Warren Wellen)  
Executive Office



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Angeles National Forest  
SO

701 N. Santa Anita Ave.  
Arcadia, CA 91006-2725  
626-574-1613 Voice  
800-735-5789 CRS

File Code: 2720

Date: January 5, 2011

Gail Farber  
Director of Public Works  
Los Angeles County, Department of Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Gail:

We have reviewed your letter dated August 5, 2010, File T-O, entitled "Commercial Vehicle Restrictions, Angeles Forest Highway and Big Tujunga Canyon Road," and have the following comments:

1. We recognize that the County has jurisdiction for this form of traffic regulation on County Roads within the Angeles National Forest.
2. We recognize the benefit of imposing similar traffic regulations on County and State Roads within the Angeles National Forest.
3. We are concerned with the effect of the proposed County regulations on the Forest's ability to operate its vehicles on County Roads. While the equivalent State Regulation (AB1361) provides unrestricted exemption to government vehicles, the County Regulation only exempts "vehicles owned by ... [a] public entity ... while necessarily [sic] in use in the construction, installation, or repair of a public utility or public improvement." We request that the proposed County Regulations exempt vehicles owned by the Federal Government for any administrative use of the County Roads.

If you have any questions, please contact George Farra, Acting Forest Engineer at (626) 574-5301, email [gfarra@fs.fed.us](mailto:gfarra@fs.fed.us), or Sonja Bergdahl, Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor at (626) 574-5292, email [sbergdahl@fs.fed.us](mailto:sbergdahl@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

  
for MARTY DUMPIS  
Acting Forest Supervisor

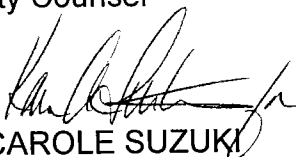


## ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Title 15 - Vehicles and Traffic, of the Los Angeles County Code, adding Section 15.48.015, to establish a prohibition on the operation of commercial vehicles with three (3) or more axles, or a maximum gross or combined gross vehicle weight of 9,000 pounds or more, on Angeles Forest Highway and Big Tujunga Canyon Road in the unincorporated territory of Los Angeles County.

ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN  
County Counsel

By

  
CAROLE SUZUKI  
Deputy County Counsel  
Public Works Division

CBS:gjv

04/11/11 (requested)  
04/19/11 (revised)

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

An ordinance amending Title 15 – Vehicles and Traffic, of the Los Angeles County Code, to prohibit the operation of commercial vehicles with three (3) or more axles, or maximum gross, or combined gross vehicle weight of 9,000 pounds or more, on Angeles Forest Highway and Big Tujunga Canyon Road in the unincorporated territory of Los Angeles County.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Section 15.48.015 is hereby added as follows:

**15.48.015 Angeles Forest Highway, Big Tujunga Canyon Road –  
Commercial Vehicle Restrictions.**

A person shall not operate a commercial vehicle with three (3) or more axles, or a maximum gross, or combined gross vehicle weight of 9,000 pounds or more, on Angeles Forest Highway from Sierra Highway to Angeles Crest Highway, and Big Tujunga Canyon Road from the City of Los Angeles/County of Los Angeles boundary which is north of Mount Gleason Avenue to Angeles Forest Highway. The Director of Public Works shall erect and maintain appropriate signs at the entrances thereto from streets without the same vehicle prohibitions. These axle and weight restrictions shall not apply to the following:

1. Those vehicles described in Section 15.48.030, Exceptions to Restrictions.
2. A vehicle operated by a government agency.

3. A commercial vehicle involved in a motion picture, commercial, or television production conducting motion picture, commercial, or television production activities in areas that are accessible only from that portion of Angeles Forest Highway or Big Tujunga Canyon Road specified in this section.

[1548015CZCC]